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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Two Local Men Sentenced to Prison for their Roles in \$1.6 Million Counterfeiting Conspiracy**

WASHINGTON - Naibeye Koumbairia, 35, of the District of Columbia, and William Glay, Jr., 33, of Germantown, Maryland, were sentenced today by the Honorable John D. Bates of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to a term of 100 months and 84 months imprisonment, respectively, announced U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips, U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Irvine, and Montgomery County Chief of Police J. Thomas Manger. Both defendants pled guilty on the eve of trial before Judge Bates on September 29, 2009, in connection with a wide-ranging conspiracy to counterfeit checks drawn on the accounts of more than 90 businesses and individuals. The defendants also were ordered by the Court to pay restitution for the actual loss amount of \$659,014.40.

According to charging documents, Koumbairia and Glay directed a large network of conspirators who worked from 1999 through 2007 to systematically cash high-quality counterfeit checks in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The conspiracy consisted of insiders (such as corrupt bank employees and a corrupt accountant), check printers, check passers, and other "recruiters" who identified people addicted to drugs or in need of money and convinced them to pass counterfeit checks and share in the criminal proceeds. The corrupt insiders provided Koumbairia, Glay, and other conspirators with copies of genuine checks and bank account information. Using that information, Koumbairia and Glay created counterfeit checks that were passed by other conspirators at banks, retailers, and check-cashing establishments.

On March 6, 2007, law enforcement officers with the U.S. Secret Service and the Montgomery County Police Department executed search warrants on the residences of Koumbairia and Glay and recovered more than 400 images of counterfeit checks purporting to be drawn on the accounts of customers with Sun Trust, Bank of America, M & T Bank (formerly Providence Bank), AM South Bank, Wachovia Bank, United Bank, Branch Banking & Trust Co., and CitiBank. The U.S. Secret Service investigated all of the images of counterfeit checks recovered from Koumbairia and Glay's residences and found that more than \$1.6 million worth of counterfeit checks that had been passed in the Washington, D.C. area by conspirators working

with Koumbairia and Glay. Those counterfeit checks were passed on the accounts of more than 90 individuals and businesses.

Koumbairia pleaded guilty to sixteen counts charging him with conspiracy, wire fraud, bank fraud, and uttering the securities of a private entity. Glay pleaded guilty to four counts charging him with conspiracy, wire fraud, and bank fraud. Koumbairia, who was born in Chad, and Glay, who was born in Liberia, also face possible deportation as a result of their criminal activities, once they have completed their terms of imprisonment.

Of the 15 conspirators who have pled guilty for their roles in this conspiracy, seven have been sentenced by Judge Bates to sentences ranging from probation to three years' imprisonment. The sentences received by Koumbairia and Glay, the two lead defendants, took into account their aggravating role in this far-reaching and lengthy conspiracy.

In announcing today's sentences, U.S. Attorney Phillips, U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Irvine, and Montgomery County Chief of Police Manger commended the outstanding investigative work of Special Agents Ryan Petrasek, Jesse Barnwanijakul, Jonas Balciunas, Stephen Kopeck, Jennifer Anderson, Chad Brewer and Shane Burroughs of the U.S. Secret Service, Detectives Susan Mercer, Debbie Clark, and Debbie Tupa of the Montgomery County Police Department, and Forensic Examiner James W. Brown of the Drug Enforcement Agency. They also commended the assistance provided in this case by Paralegals Jeannette Fennell, Mary Treanor, Margaret McCabe, Sarah Reis, and Carolyn Cody, Legal Assistants Jamasee Lucas, Priscilla Hutson, Latoya Wade, Latoya Davenport, Jacqueline Akyea, and Student Intern Sierra Tate. Lastly, they praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Debra Long-Doyle, Scharn Robinson, and John W. Borchert who prosecuted this case.

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